The Uncanny Psychoanalysis Study Case Ondel-Ondel Betawi

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Abstract

Sigmund Freud, a psychoanalyst was motivated to discuss an aesthetic subject that not only discusses beauty. The research discusses about experience of emotional qualities which is named, the uncanny. In his research on the uncanny, Freud discussed the feeling of doubt about the involvement that managed to live but not life. Uncanny is a phenomenon experienced by every Humans who compiles by seeing visual reality that is incompatible with their orientation. Ondel-ondel in modern form today also has an appearance that is getting closer to humans.

The focus of this research is the study of visual appearance Ondel-ondel Betawi. The purpose of this research is how to produce studies Ondel-ondel betawi as object by using the understanding of uncanny psychoanalysis theory. The research method is used qualitatively with secondary data obtained from internet media (soft copy) or literature (hard copy), then through these data observations are made by comparing the visual display between Ondel-ondel with Humans as living things. Then the results of the visual comparison will be discussed with a descriptive approach. The results of this study will produce uncanny visual variables which contained in Ondel-ondel, so it can be used for further research that may be constructed in digital form.

Keywords: freud, humans, ondel-ondel, psychoanalysis, uncanny

1 Introduction

In 1970 there was a phenomenal theory in the world from robot industry. This theory talks about the appearance, that can give attraction for loving an object. The theory name is Uncanny Valley, proposed by Mashahiro Mori in [1]. A simple explanation about this theory, the more realistic visual object with humans but the simulation of motion is not the same as humans. The result is eerie visual for audience. Conversely, if the visual conditions produced are not realistic in resembling humans, then there is no demand for visual movements to be the same as humans.

The Uncanny theory was revealed in 1906, which is written in the essay by Jentsch in [2], a psychologist at that time. Jentsch revealed in his theory using the understanding of the German language. In the Jentsch Study defines “uncanny” unheimlich which means to express someone who feels strange outside the home or comfortable conditions, then go to a strange place. It can also be defined what we usually see in accordance with the general orientation in our view of one thing, but due to the lack of the same orientation results in an incorrect feeling about it.

Feelings experienced due to lack of orientation (views that underlie thoughts, concerns or tendencies) produce uncanny feelings. Some cases raised by Jentsch to understand this phenomenon include: The dim condition when we are around collection of candles that are similar to humans. Candles
that have a humans size and figure of the likeness of this humans figure will give an uncomfortable feeling, because in the individual’s subconscious doubts arise whether the object is alive or not.

This uncanny theory is also studied and researched by Sigmund Freud in [3], a psychoanalyst. Through his research investigating the subject of aesthetics which is not only understood based on beauty alone, but the subject needs to provide emotional quality for audience. In Freud’s research discusses how the individual’s subconscious in responding to a terrible thing. The initial understanding used by Freud was through vocabulary, starting with Jentsch. Then learn vocabulary from several other languages, in Latin (unheimlicher means different place), Greek (xenos means foreign), English (uncanny means uncomfortable), French (sachs villatte means very bad), Spanish (sospechoso means very bad), Arabic & Hebrew (kharig lilatabiea which means very cruel). In research on the Uncanny theory, Freud discussed the conditions in doubt about creatures that appear to be alive but are actually lifeless. The case of wax figures, artificial dolls, and robots. This feeling condition arises, due to the absence of the same movements or mechanisms as the movements of living things.

In this study, the authors limit the research by object studied. Object research is Ondel-ondel Betawi performance art, Ondel-ondel has deformation that resembles humans. This selection is based on Mori’s theory, in which Mori takes Bunraku Puppet as the object of research in the uncanny curve diagram. Uncanny’s condition in Mori’s research, regarding visual objects resembling living things, but the simulation of their movements does not match the original living things. And in that Uncanny feeling, Mori had created the variables using the diagram. which is called uncanny valley.

Meanwhile, Freud’s theory of psychoanalysis Uncanny beyond the pleasure, discusses conditions where feelings that doubt objects that resemble living things but do not actually have life. By using a study case through wax figures, artificial dolls, and robots. However, in this case there is no clear variable regarding the meaning expressed by Freud in the theory of Uncanny beyond the pleasure.

Therefore, through the theory of Freud Uncanny beyond the pleasure, aims to obtain the Uncanny variable in the subconscious towards By comparing between Ondel-ondel and Humans. Ondel-ondel as objects that resemble living things, with a comparison of Humans as real living things. Ondel-ondel in its own visual development already existed during the colonial period, Ondel-ondel used to have a very scary form and was called Barongan. Barongan has a visual mixing between Chinese lion dance and Hindu giant called Dwarapala. As its development Ondel-ondel also transformed visually and in motion by Purbasari in [4]. Ondel-ondel has a visual development that increasingly, have the same appearance as Humans. According to the understanding of Uncanny by Jentsch and Freud, the visual state of living things but does not produce the belief that the object is alive will give the effect of uncanny. Ondel-ondel in their visual have the same appearance as Humans, but clearly the movements and behavior are not entirely the same as humans.

The purpose of this study is how to classify any part in the form of visual Ondel-ondel modern / commercial, which produces Uncanny. Through a qualitative approach with the theory of psychoanalysis, from the comparison of humans and Ondel-ondel Betawi.

2 Literature Review

Psychoanalysis is a science in the Humans psychology system that aims for mental therapy, concerning the interaction of the conscious or subconscious which produces fear and conflict in interactions that produce interpretations of feelings. Consciousness is related to physical things
in life, the results of the process is always natural for thoughts, feelings and actions. While all possibilities in the soul will affect one’s subconscious by Freud in [5].

Parts of the soul can be divided into three parts, namely thoughts, feelings (emotions), and actions (will). These three parts are strongly influenced by the senses in humans; sight, smell, hearing, touch, taste. From one of these parts can affect one’s soul by Harriman in [6].

Ondel-ondel is a visual cultural object that can be categorized as a doll. Dolls themselves can be interpreted as figures depicting people or animals, which are usually given clothes or other accessories that move with help from inside or outside [7].

In Freud’s study of his psychoanalytic study, he also took puppets as a case study to illustrate what is called “the uncanny”. The dolls depicted despite the appearance of acrobatics, talking, flying, and various other methods still give an ambiguous feeling to life. It is a depiction of approaching life, but fully cannot be said to be alive. The feeling that arises from the obscurity of life in a doll. One can feel that there are things that are not appropriate from an uncertain life because the conditions of life that result from the doll are not entirely real. This condition where humans bring life to objects where living things already exist, have a body, spirit, words, meaning of life - fall into death, or into a dead life, ordinances or mechanical life, one of life like a doll or robot. So the same form as living things that already exist, will produce uncanny life - which is the result of a line of doubt whether the object is alive or dead by Gross in [8].

To understand the difficulties faced by the subject about fear / anxiety, not just because he does not know what to fear or where the real threat is. The real problem, as Lacan seems to point out, has more to do with the feeling of being gnawed at from within, or the uncanny presentiment that someone is somehow bound to the source of anxiety. If the source of anxiety remains unknown in some way, it is because it is too close to us (or too attached to us) for us to be able to mention what is the factor of that fear by Robertson in [9].

When we see dolls (including Ondel-ondel) that resemble Humans there may be a fear or anxiety that we feel, but because we repeatedly see the same form with humans. We do not know how to express what is source of fear / anxiety. The following is a picture of a doll including ondel-ondel, which visually has a close form to humans. Ideas or hopes make a similar likeness to living things. How does the form taken come from real life. In Beyond the Pleasure Principle Freud analyzes the phenomena alluded to here. “the aim of all life is death, and, looking backwards, that inanimate things existed before living ones” by Masschelein in [10].

Figure 1. A - Evidence of Floods (by Janie Geiser&Co), B – Absolute Fool (by Paul Klee), C – Bunraku Puppet (Japan), D – Ondel-Ondel Betawi.


3 Research Method

This research method uses qualitative with secondary data obtained through internet media. The main theory used is “The Uncanny” of Freud’s phenomenon beyond the pleasure principle. The research approach is through the comparison of two data objects, humans as fully alive creatures and Ondel-ondel as the goal of getting an uncanny variable for further research. The Uncanny beyond the pleasure theory is used in this study, by comparing humans as living things and Ondel-ondel betawi as objects that resemble humans but do not appear to be alive. After making comparisons, an analysis will be carried out related to the variables of the Uncanny beyond the pleasure theory of the Betawi Ondel-ondel object.

![Research Method](image.png)

Figure 2. Research Method “The Uncanny Psychoanalysis Study Case Ondel-Ondel Betawi”.

4 Discussion

In solving this research problem, the author returns to the theory taken related to Freud’s uncanny psychoanalysis. Where the main focus is not on aesthetics. But rather know and distinguish uncanny feelings from the source object. Uncanny feeling is meant by the quality of feeling towards objects that look like living things but do not look alive. In the following, the author will take a sample of the Ondel-ondel visual images which are examined based on comparisons with humans. Humans as living things are created by great power, so natural and do not experience uncanny effects by Freud in [11].
Table 1. Uncanny variable Ondel-ondel Betawi, comparison with humans.

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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Ondel-ondel’s face part is completely made according to humans, from the eyes, ears, nose and even mouth. But cannot move and expressive. Especially eyes that are not alive, do not shine and blink. So that it is seen too long and glaring eerie. If the face can have expressive additions it can allow Ondel-ondel to look alive.</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Ondel-ondel has proportions and anatomy that are almost the same as humans, only the difference in scale if humans have a scale of 8 heads. Ondel-ondel 5 heads. There is no neck part because it blends directly with the shoulder.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>In performances and shows, Ondel-ondel often plays the same behavior as humans such as walking, dancing, or interacting. But the resulting pose is unnatural and not the same as humans.</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Although with the same anatomy as humans, the mechanism of motion of Ondel-ondel is very limited. Red lines in human pictures, showing human joints that can move. While ondel-ondel can only move in the hand area because it is made of cloth and directly to the wrist.</td>
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Uncanny can again be interpreted as something that should be familiar to us because it becomes an everyday part that is seen and experienced, turned into strange, unnatural, foreign, even eerie. The reason for that is because there are differences in orientation in the human psyche that have an effect on the unconscious feeling of this uncanny by Freud in [12]. From the Ondel-ondel case study, it is the likeness of humans in visual and motion objects. Ondel-ondel does have a unique characteristic as one of the cultural results from Betawi, but in the subconscious we can justify the uncanny effect when interacting with this cultural object.

5 Conclusion

The results of this study it can be seen how the Uncanny variables in Ondel-ondel Betawi can be found. By comparing humans with Ondel-ondel Betawi, in crucial areas visuals and movements. In this study, four variables were found to produce Uncanny feelings in Ondel-ondel Betawi, namely; Expressions, proportions, poses and mechanisms of motion. This research is useful for further research by authors or other researchers. Further research from the author himself, how to develop formula to go beyond the Uncanny variable in Ondel-ondel Betawi.

6 References


